Parents, Guardians and Students, August 1, 2018

Effective March 28, 2018, a new attendance policy was put in place at both Carpe Diem and Sonoma Mountain High Schools that may affect the credit earning potential for students that are attending school less than 90% of the time. Below, you will find the tiered attendance policy that was explained to all students, at both sites, on that date (as well as informing those that were absent as they returned to school). As this revised attendance policy took effect 3/28/18, any absences prior to that date will not be subject to the new policy.

Currently, both high schools maintain an accelerated credit scale, which allows students to earn up to seven credits per semester, depending on the quality of work submitted in their core classes (as opposed to the 5 credits students would typically earn at the large, comprehensive sites). The credit acceleration is based on the fact that we are considered a “credit recovery” program. Therefore, students who are taking their education seriously and earning above average grades are rewarded with above average credits.

Per Education Code (Ed. Code), one credit is based on 12 hrs. of productive class time with passing grades. When students are not in school, they are missing class time, and are not meeting the hourly requirement to justify full credit.

**Attendance/credit policy is as follows:**

Attendance at 90% and above, there are no changes to the current credit earning schedule.

Attendance at less than 90%, but greater than 80%, loss of accelerated credit schedule.

* Students will receive 5 semester credits per class for “C” work and above.

Attendance at less than 80%, but greater than 70%, will result in 20% deduction in credit.

* Students will receive 4 semester credits per class for “C” work and above.

Attendance at less than 70% will receive no credit (N/C) for the semester.

\*\*Figures are based on raw attendance (both excused and unexcused absences). Students with a serious and compelling reason for their absence(s) will be considered on an individual basis.

Attached, you will find two short paragraphs regarding the importance of regular attendance and the definition of Chronic Absenteeism. Your student’s successful and timely graduation is important to all of us.

Thank you for your support!

Gregory Stevenson, MA

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Print Student Name

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Student Signature Date

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Parent Signature Date

Importance of Regular Attendance

Consistent school attendance is critical for many reasons. When students miss school, they miss instruction, and playing catch up may be very difficult, especially in older grades. Daily attendance is like building a wall. As a student attends school each day, each lesson adds a block to the wall. When a student is chronically absent, they miss blocks of learning, causing gaps or holes, which can have a negative impact on their academic achievement in future grades. Also encouraging students to attend school every day sends the message to students that school is important and should be taken seriously!

## What Is Chronic Absenteeism?

According to the Education Commission of the States, the average number of school days in most school years is 180 days. The criteria for chronic absenteeism varies, but generally students who miss 10 or more days of school or 10% or greater of the school year are considered chronically absent. It is very important that students, as much as possible, attend school every day so that they can receive consistent instruction and so teachers can track student progress and provide interventions and support if necessary.